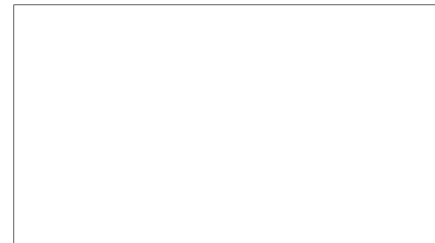


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Apology as part of penalty for CIA in mail-opening case

The first court decision growing out of the CIA mail surveillance program includes as part of the penalty an apology by the CIA to offended persons.

A federal district judge in New York ordered the U.S. government to pay \$1,000 and court costs for three plaintiffs in addition to the apology.

The proposed apology would say that the mail-opening program had been stopped, that the CIA has no current authority to open private mail, and that the CIA hopes the apology helps to restore the plaintiff's trust in the integrity of our institutions.

That is an ingenious addition to the penalty and it helps to underscore the substantial efforts already made to restore integrity to our institutions.

The judge also noted that not all plaintiffs would claim they had been damaged. If they could prove damage, the potential liability against the U.S. Treasury, based on the first decision, has been estimated at about \$215 million. Plaintiffs who suffered no damage could help strengthen faith in the integrity of our people if they didn't clog up the courts with claims.